

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

by Bruce Barrett

Bay Players:
Action, Laughter
and ... Murder!

Of all the cases of crime and mayhem solved by my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, the most sanguine must be that which befell a little seaside town far from our usual haunts in London. We had visited Duxbury the previous winter for a brief rest, only to be caught up in the Case of the Missing Feast, a Yuletide mystery that warmed even Holmes' jaded heart. The following summer returned us to our rented cottage near the ocean's edge, a chance to escape the weighty matters of human depravity, greed, and murder that so often fill our digs at 221-B Baker Street. We expected rest. We couldn't have been more wrong.

"How many killed, Watson?"

"At least five. One was killed twice. No, that can't be right - that sounds more like the Daily Mirror than the Clipper. It all transpired during that horrid thunderstorm, in the mansion down the street. A butler, a houseful of suspects - and weapons galore. A rope, candlestick, pistol, knife, wrench, and a lead pipe. Apparently the old mausoleum even

has secret passageways"

"The first victim?"

"Body."

"Yes, man, out with it! Whose was



the first body?"

"Body, Holmes! The first victim was a Mr. Body!"

Holmes snatched the newspaper from my hands. He pored over it a moment before a spark of recognition - nay, victory - shone from his angular features.

"I have it, Watson!" he exclaimed. "Blackmail! Now all that remains is to tidy up the details!"

Bay Players present *Clue: the Play* as their summer production, a delightful and hilarious who-done-it based on the board game of the same name, a stage adaptation of Jonathan Lynn's 1985 film *Clue: the Movie*. Theresa Chiasson's direction keeps the cast hopping and the action rolling. The jam-packed Good Knight Theater at the high school puts the audience right in the center of the action. The turn-out was great the night I saw it. Laughter loves company, and the full house made it easy to guffaw out loud.

Ron Gori (Colonel Mustard), Joe LaGreca (Mr. Green), Jeff Phillips (Professor Plum), Dori Bryan (Mrs. White), Miki Joseph (Mrs. Peacock), Stephanie Gallagher (Miss Scarlet), Sarah Angley (Yvette), Dan Gallagher (Mr. Body), Rosanne Rooney (Mrs. Ho, the cook/Singing Telegram Girl), Joan Paquette (Motorist/Cop), and Helen Churchill (Chief/Evangelist) all delivered bang-up jobs in tight quarters. Nary a line was dropped, and the Bay Players' delight in complex slap-stick sequences shone forth again.

Stephen Doherty anchors the twists and turns of the plot in a virtuoso performance as Wadsworth, the butler. Stephan, as Wadsworth, lays out the tangled web of secrets and seductions that brings the unsavory (but delicious) cast of characters together for a night of hors d'oeuvres and murder. To top it all off, Wadsworth wrangles the show's half-dozen or so alternate endings, some with additional body counts, and all with slightly different lines to learn. He pulls it off beautifully - and looks great in a white tie and tails.

Check it out Friday and Saturday night at 8 p.m. at the Good Knight Theater at the High School. General admission is \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Call 800-290-6825 to reserve seats (leave a message). Don't wait - I expect a sell-out.

"My word, Holmes! You're reading the theater review. I should have thought the police report would be..."

"Nonsense, Watson. The greatest crimes are always high theater, and rarely, high comedy. This one is both."

A wry smile came over the face of Sherlock Holmes.

"In fact, it's a scream."